

Message Text

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

P - MR SISCO

NEA - MR ATHERTON

PM - MR VEST (DRAFT)

NSC - MR OAKLEY (DRAFT)

S/P -MR LORD (DRAFT)

S/S -O:P.JOHNSON

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R 172340Z JAN 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012762

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, PK, US

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO AZIZ AHMED ON AICRAFT SALES

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

1. WHEN I MET WITH AZIZ AHMED DECEMBER 17 IN PARIS, HE
RAISED QUESTION OF A-7 SALES TO PAKISTAN AND URGED AN EARLY
FAVORABLE DECISION. I PROMISED A RESPONSE BY MID-JANUARY,
SAYING OUR REPLY WOULD NOT BE NEGATIVE BUT POINTING OUT
THAT THE QUESTION OF TIMING WAS A CRITICAL ONE FOR US.
FOLLOWING ARE TALKING POINTS FOR YOUR USE WITH AZIZ AHMED
RESPONDING TO HIS REQUEST OF DECEMBER 17.

2. A. THE SECRETARY WAS PLEASED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO
MEET WITH YOU IN PARIS IN DECEMBER. YOU ASKED AT THAT
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TIME THAT WE GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO PAKISTAN'S

INTEREST IN PURCHASING A-7 AIRCRAFT. THE SECRETARY INDICATED THAT WE WOULD REVIEW OUR POSITION AND BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU.

B. LAST MARCH, WHEN WE ANNOUNCED THE DECISION TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO ON SALES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO SOUTH ASIA, WE INDICATED THAT IN THE INITIAL STAGES WE EXPECTED TO

CONCENTRATE ON DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT. IN THE PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS OF OUR DECISION IT WAS MADE CLEAR THAT THE SALE OF SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT WAS NOT ANTICIPATED IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. WE OF COURSE DID NOT FORECLOSE FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF AIRCRAFT SALES AT SOME FUTURE DATE.

C. SINCE THAT TIME, WE HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT ON ITEMS THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SELL UNDER OUR REVISED POLICY. WE HAVE COME TO AGREEMENT ON THE AVAILABILITY FROM U.S. SOURCES OF A VARIETY OF EQUIPMENT INCLUDING TOWS, HELICOPTERS, SIDEWINDERS, IMPROVED HAWKS, DESTROYERS, SOME ARTILLERY AND AIR DEFENSE RADAR AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. SO FAR, WE HAVE SIGNED SALES AGREEMENTS ONLY FOR THE SHIPMENT OF THE TOWS WHICH THE SECRETARY DISCUSSED WITH YOU IN NEW YORK LAST SEPTEMBER. WE THEREFORE HAVE HAD LITTLE EXPERIENCE IN TESTING CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO OUR NEW ARMS RELATIONSHIP. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD MOVE AHEAD ON THE ABOVE ITEMS AND AVOID JEOPARDIZING OUR WHOLE ARMS RELATIONSHIP BY STIMULATING CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION WITH PREMATURE CONSIDERATION OF AIRCRAFT SALES.

D. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE A DIFFICULT SITUATION IN OUR GOVERNMENT ON BROAD QUESTIONS OF ARMS SALES AND WE ARE NOW FACING A MAJOR POLICY DEBATE IN THE CONGRESS ON THESE ISSUES. WE KNOW THAT YOU WOULD NOT WANT THE ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE ANY ACTION AT THIS TIME WHICH COULD FURTHER RESTRICT OUR FLEXIBILITY IN MEETING REQUESTS FOR ARMS SALES FROM OUR FRIENDS, INCLUDING PAKISTAN.

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E. WE CONTINUE TO HAVE YOUR SECURITY NEEDS IN MIND, AS OUR ACTIONS OVER THE PAST TEN MONTHS HAVE DEMONSTRATED. AFTER WE GET FURTHER ALONG IN MEETING YOUR PRIORITY EQUIPMENT NEEDS IN OTHER AREAS, WE CAN TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE AIRCRAFT QUESTION AND DETERMINE WHEN IT IS IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST TO MOVE AHEAD. KISSINGER

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